

REMARKS

New and Cancelled Claims

Claim 41 is added herein. Claims 23-34 and 40 are cancelled herein.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 16-18, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as disclosed by Kessous et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,394,172). Claims 23 and 24 are herein cancelled. The Examiner noted that the “tensioning devices” in the claims of the current application read upon the holes shown in Kessous et al. because the claims fail to set forth structure for the tensioning devices. Claim 1 has been cancelled and all claims previously depending therefrom have been amended to depend from new claim 41. New claim 41 sets forth the structure of the claimed tensioning device, and the relationship between the structure of the claimed tensioning device and the filament. Similarly, claim 16 has been amended to set forth the structure of the claimed tensioning device, and the relationship between the structure of the claimed tensioning device and the filament.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kessous et al., nor any other cited reference discloses the limitations of independent claims 1 or 16. Therefore, because claims 2-6, 10-12, 14-15, 17-18, 36-37, and 39 depend therefrom, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 10-12, 14-18, 36-37, and 39 are now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is hereby requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 12, 25, 34, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kessous et al. Claims 25, 34 and 40 are cancelled herein. As explained above, however, Kessous et al. does not disclose the structure of the tensioning device claimed by independent claims 1 and 16, from which claims 5, 12, 39 and 40 depend. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 39 and 40 are now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is hereby requested.

Further Action Requested

As Applicant has indicated above, no cited reference discloses the limitations of independent claims 1 or 16. Therefore, it would not have been obvious modify the claimed invention to meet the further limitations of the remaining claims, which depend therefrom. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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